HEALTH
A 11 OCT 49
C.R. 54

LIBRARY

RURAL DISTRICT OF DEBEN.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1948

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29154789

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

C.H. Imrie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. D. Jenkinson, M.I.Mun.E., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors.

Mr. R. Bedford, C.R.S.I.

Mr. A. Warrander, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., (Certificated Food Inspector)

The Chairman and Councillors,
Rural District Council of Deben.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my annual report for the year 1948. This report has been prepared in accordance with the scheme laid out in the Ministry of Health Circular 3/49.

The general health of the population has maintained a satisfactory level in spite of 1948 being an epidemic year for measles.

The sanitary conditions of the district have shown improvement, but in the more isolated areas there is still much to be done.

On 5th July the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into force. This measure has brought many changes to the sphere of medicine and is not without its effects on the Public Health Service. One of the most obvious changes has been an increasing centralisation of administrative functions. While being a great advantage in many ways centralisation loses the advantage of local knowledge which in the past has maintained interest in Public Health. It is however too early to be able to form any estimate of the full effects of the changes.

It is with pleasure that I would mention the cooperation and help which I have received from the officials of the Council and I would like to record my gratitude.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

A. STATISTICS.

1. General.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1948)	25,130
Area of District in Acres	109,974
Density of Population. Persons per acre	0.23
" " " " " Square mile	147.2
Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.48.	8,046
Average number of persons per house	3.1
Rateable Value of District	£116,308
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£465

2. Vital Statistics.

(a) Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	204	199	403
Illegitimate	15	9	24
			427

Live Birth Rate per 1000 population - 16.9
" " " England & Wales - 17.9

(b) Still Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			5

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Total Births-11.5
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population - 0.19
" " " England & Wales - 0.42

(c) Deaths. (All Causes).

Male	Female	Total
138	115	253

Death Rate (corrected for transfers) 10.06.
" " England & Wales - 10.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes . . . . . NIL.

" " Other Maternal Causes . . . . . NIL.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1000 live births 22.3
" " " " " " England & Wales 34.0

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 22.3
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " " 41.6

Other Deaths.

Cancer (all ages) 49
Rate per 1000 population 1.9
Measles (all ages) Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages) 1
Infantile Diarrhoea (under 2 years) Nil
Tuberculosis (all forms & ages) 11

3. It will be seen from the foregoing statistics that 1948 was a comparatively healthy year. When compared with 1947 we find that the Death rate for 1948 has fallen by 2.6 per thousand population, and the Infantile (under 1 year) Death rate has fallen by 3.3 per 1000 related births.

The Live Birth rate however shows a fall from 19.17 in 1947 to 16.9 in 1948. This fall indicates that the post war rise has passed its peak.

The Still Birth Rates also show a satisfactory downwar tendency from 22.9 to 11.5 per 1000 total births.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

1. Ambulance.

Ambulance cars are stationed at Ipswich, Woodbridge Framlingham, and Felixstowe, and are available for non-infectious cases.

2. Laboratory.

The County Laboratory, Bond Street, Ipswich, provides all the necessary laboratory facilities. Chemical Water Analysis is performed by the Public Analyst, Norwich.

3. County Services.

The East Suffolk County Council is responsible for the Local Health Authority Services.

DISINFESTATION.

1. Rats. During the year vigorous warfare has been waged against rat infestation by the Council's two trained operatives. In addition to being a nuisance and a cause of loss to food supplies, rats are a serious potential danger to health owing to their capacity for carrying infectious germs.

During 1948, 1516 premises were visited and an estimated total of 6328 rats were killed. In addition to this figure it is estimated that 540 mice were destroyed and 8 wasps nests were eradicated.

2. Lice and Bugs. During the year one case of infestation was reported and dealt with.

3. Scabies. One case of scabies was reported and treated.

C. INFECTIOUS DISEASE - (Non-Tuberculous).

During the year 632 cases of Infectious Disease were notified in the District. This number is a considerable increase over 1947 which was, however, a year exceptionally free from epidemic disease.

As will be seen from an anlaysis of notifications the Respiratory Catarrh group (Measles and Whooping Cough) accounted for most of the cases.

Measles. This disease now seems to be established in a biennial cycle with alternate years fairly free. As in previous peak years the number of cases notified was near the 500 mark. The majority of cases occurred in children of the 5 - 6 age groups and there was no evidence of undue severity in the disease.

Whooping Cough. This showed a much higher prevalence than has yet been recorded in this district since it became notifiable in 1940. The cyclical feature of this disease is not so well marked, but there is some indication that there is a periodicity of about 4 years. Peaks seem to have occurred in 1940, 1944 and 1948. The maximum incidence during the year seems to have fallen in the 4 - 5 ag e group.

Together Measles and Whooping Cough accounted for 90% of all infectious disease in the district.

Paratyphoid. During the first Quarter we had 6 cases of Paratyphoid B. This outbreak originated in Ipswich during December 1947 and is dealt with in my report for that year.

Meningitis. The case of Pneumococcal Meningitis was originally notified as Cerebrospinal Meningitis but hospital investigation revealed the true diagnosis. The patient recovered.

Poliomyelitis. The case notified in September was an infant who was found to be suffering from the effects of Infantile Paralysis. There is no definite information as to when the disease occurred.

Food Poisoning. No cases were notified in the district during the year.

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Total	Died
Pneumonia	1	2	2	6	3	-	4	4	10	32	14
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	6	-
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	1	3	3	1	1	-	9	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	6	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
C.S.Meningitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	9	66	90	229	64	11	15	2	-	486	-
Whooping Cough	4	21	14	38	5	-	1	-	-	83	1
										632	

TABLE I.

Monthly Notifications of Infectious Disease.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
rlet Fever					1					2			3
htheria									1				1
umonia	3	5		5		2		2		3	2	10	32
oping Cough	6	3	7	11	5	2	2	1	6	10	10	20	83
sles	1	1	29	86	97	137	73	23	15	20	3	1	486
atyphoid	5	1											6
umococcal ingitis			1										1
sipelas			1			3			1			1	6
iomyelitis									1	1			2
thalmia natorum	1				1	1							3
ndice			2	1		1				1	2	2	9
													632

UNISATION.

Immunisation against diphtheria was carried out in fare Centres and Schools. The arrangements were similar to those the previous year.

mber of pre school children immunised	930
tal number of children immunised	3249
rcentage of pre-school children immunised	45.3
" " all " "	55.3
mber of children receiving "Booster" doses	93

There has been some demand for Whooping Cough ophylaxis and there is no doubt that some effective protection ainst this infection would lessen the risk of respiratory disease later years. Up to the present however the value of Whooping ugh immunisation has not been definitely proved although certain ports seem to be encouraging.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The figures for Tuberculosis in the District show some slight improvement when compared with the previous year. It is doubtful however if the variation is large enough to be significant.

It is interesting to note that the Death Rate for Tuberculosis in Deben is slightly lower than the Tuberculosis Death Rate for England and Wales.

The proportion of ex-service men who were invalided on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and whose names were added to the register during the year is perhaps rather high (6 out of a total of 11 Male Pulmonary cases).

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
umber in Register on 1st Jan.1948.	33	31	24	24	112
" notified during the year	8	6	1	4	19
umber restored to register after emoval in a previous period . .	1	2	1	-	4
umber added otherwise than by otification	2	1	2	1	6
umber removed from register uring the year	5	12	5	2	24
umber remaining on 31st Dec.1948	39	28	23	27	117

Reasons for Removal from Register.

Recovered	4
Diagnosed non-tuberculous	1
Left district	8
Died	11

Analyses of Notifications and Deaths during the Year.

Age	Cases Notified					Deaths				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-4	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	3	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	2
25-34	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2
35-44	2	5	-	-	7	-	2	1	-	3
45-54	1	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	2
55-64	1	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	2
Over 65		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8	6	1	4	19	4	4	3	-	11

The Death Rate for Tuberculosis in Deben for 1948 was 0.43 per 1000 population.

The figure for England and Wales was 0.51 per 1000.

A comparison with the statistics for the previous 10 years.

	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938
Number added to Register	34	32	18	23	25	27	32	22	27	34
Deaths from Tuberculosis . .	13	13	4	9	7	10	5	10	10	10
Death Rate (Tuberculosis) per 1000 population.	0.53	0.54	0.17	0.39	0.31	0.43	0.21	0.39	0.40	0.41

D. HOUSING.

As in most other districts Deben has a long waiting list for houses. A vigorous housing policy however has had some effect.

During the year the number of inhabited dwellings rose by 170 to a total of 8046. This increase is made up as follows.

New houses completed by the Local Authority	48
Dwellings converted or otherwise rendered habitable by the Local Authority	57
Huts in Camps converted	26
Private building including conversions	23
Dwellings re-occupied and not included in above figures	16
TOTAL:	170

Sub-standard Houses.

It is felt while the shortage of houses still continues that the time is not yet opportune to undertake extensive measures under the Housing Acts. A careful watch however has been kept on the situation and where a dwelling falls seriously below the minimum standard the Housing Acts have been invoked.

During the year two areas containing a total of 9 houses were made the subject of Clearance Orders in accordance with the Housing Act 1936, Sections 25 and 26.

In addition one house was dealt with under Section 11 of the Act by Demolition Order.

E. WATER.

1. In 32 of the 66 Parishes in the district there is a Public Mains Water Supply. In the remainder the supply is derived from private wells and bores.

2. The public supply is provided mainly by the Deben R.D.C. Waterworks, but the Felixstowe Water Company, the Ipswich Waterworks and the Woodbridge & District Waterworks supply certain Parishes in proximity to their boundaries.

3. In quantity the public supply is fully adequate for all normal requirements and should permit of extension of the mains system. The quality of the water is good but the hardness and the high iron content are technical disadvantages. There is no evidence of plumbosolvency.

4. During the year 37 extensions were made direct to houses, 14 standpipes were installed and 9 farms were supplied by meter.
The appended table shows the distribution of water by the Public mains.

5. TABLE

Parish	Direct to Houses	By Standpipe	Farms supplied by Meter.
Boulge	4	10	1
Bredfield	28	43	9
Bromeswell	8	-	1
Bucklesham	2	-	-
Burgh	15	21	6
Charsfield	15	40	8
Clopton	20	28	14
Culpho	1	-	1
Dallinghoo	10	12	11
Debach	13	9	3
Foxhall	8	-	2
Grundisburgh	84	52	9
Hasketon	23	22	8
Kesgrave	380	1	8
Kirton	47	-	-
Martlesham	20	3	2
Melton	275	15	-
Nacton	150	-	-
Newbourne	1	-	-
Otley	54	72	14
Pettistree	10	2	6
Playford	2	-	-
Purdis Farm	47	-	-
Rushmere	416	12	6
Swilland	10	28	5
Trimley St. Martin	189	-	-
Trimley St. Mary	208	-	-
Tuddenham	20	23	5
Ufford	38	11	2
Westerfield	3	2	-
Wickham Market	123	68	5
Witnesham	53	42	9

6. During the year analyses of water was performed as follows.

	Public Supply	Private
Number of samples	10	166
Satisfactory	10	70
Unsatisfactory	-	96

Chemical Analysis of the Public Supply: 5 samples.

Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	.0007
Combined Chlorine	4.7
Nitrogen as Nitrates	Nil
Nitrites	Nil
Hardness (Total)	26.6°

F. SANITATION.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Council has 3 vehicles employed in the collection of refuse. After removal of rags, bones, etc. for Salvage the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

Salvage.

The Paper Salvage Scheme has operated in a satisfactory manner and during the year 66 tons 10 cwts. were recovered and sold for the approx. value of £437.

Cesspool Emptying.

There are two vehicles employed on emptying cesspools, and the demand for this service is increasing rapidly.

Sewerage.

The Trimley Sewerage Scheme continues to work in a satisfactory manner, and work has now commenced on the Scheme for Wickham Market. This latter scheme will be a decided advantage to the urbanised parish of Wickham Market.

Negotiations in connection with the joint Woodbridge-Melton Sewerage Scheme are in progress and it is hoped that it may soon come to fruition.

G. SUDBOURNE BATTLE AREA.

It will be recalled that during the War the Parishes of Sudbourne and Iken were taken over by the War Office as a Battle Training Area. When the war ended the rehabilitation of the villages was taken in hand by the Ministry of Works and finally in March the village of Sudbourne was "liberated" and resumed its status as a parish of the Rural District.

The work of restoration was carried out in an adequate manner by the Ministry of Works, but it is unfortunate that many of the wells, which form the only water supply to Sudbourne Village, were structurally poor and the greatest difficulty was experienced in obtaining water fit for domestic use.

Our difficulties were represented to the Ministry of Health and an Official of the Regional Staff met Officials of this Authority at Sudbourne and discussed the problem. This was followed by further treatment of the wells which resulted in the majority becoming fit for use.

There can be no doubt however that in common with other Parishes the water supply of this village is not satisfactory by modern standards and that the long term remedy is a mains water scheme. A scheme on these lines is in course of preparation and negotiations with the Ministry of Health are proceeding.

CI/PH.
Sept.1949.

REPORT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Housing Inspections (Private Dwellings).

	Issued	Abated
Statutory Notices	Nil	Nil
Preliminary Notices	21	21

Most of the under-noted works were carried out on verbal request and this continues to be the most desirable and satisfactory method for all concerned.

Analysis of Work carried out.

Roofs repaired	26
Chimney stacks repaired	7
Bargeboards "	4
Guttering and R.W. pipes repaired or renewed	18
Ceilings repaired	16
Floors "	16
Wall plastering repaired	16
Windows repaired	12
Doors "	14
Dampness remedied	10
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	27
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed	6
Coppers repaired or renewed	4
Staircases repaired	4
Taps repaired	2
W.C. Cisterns renewed	3
W.C. pedestals renewed	5
Well heads repaired	6
Wells cleaned	8
Pumps repaired or renewed	4
External walls rendered	3
Dangerous gables repaired	2
Gully renewed	1
Cesspools reconstructed	9
Installation of drains	4
Drains repaired	13
Accmulations of rubbish removed	18
Offensive ditches cleaned	19
Dirty houses cleaned	2
Re-visits in connection with the above	53

Visits made in connection with:-

Cesspools complaints	17
Refuse tips	18
Ex W.D. Dumps	3
Pig Keeping	15
Poultry Keeping	7

Visits to temporary housing sites:-

Nacton	24
Ufford	16
Cordy's Lane, Trimley	6
Requisitioned properties	41
Caravans and sites	14

Infectious Diseases.

Visits made following notifications of infectious diseases	77
" " " " " Food Poisoning	3
Disinfection of premises carried out	13
Disinfestation of premises carried out:-	
Bugs	1
Beetles (wood)	3
Fleas	5
Flies	2
Wasps Nests	2

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples submitted for examination:-

	Bacteriological		Chemical
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Private . .	70	96	1
Mains . .	10	-	5

Extension of Mains.
North Eastern Scheme.

The extension of the mains in this part of the District has been brought a step nearer by the sinking of two bores at Pettistree. The pumping tests indicated an abundance of water of good quality although hard and of a ferruginous nature.

Surveys in connection with mains extensions were made in Cretingham, Letheringham, Hoo and Monewden, and negotiations with the Ministry are proceeding satisfactorily.

FOOD CONTROL.

The undermentioned foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year.

Beef (forequarters)	242 lbs.
Lamb	12½ "
Corned beef	102 "
Cooked beef	73 "
Beef & Gravy	23 tins.
Stewed Steak	8 "
M & V Ration	2 "
Veal Loaf	4 "
Meat pies	30
Beans	4 tins
Peas	7 "
Piccalilli	1 jar
Pilchards	3 tins
Sild	3 "
Herrings	1 "
Dutch Mussels	16 "
Crawfish	1 "
Marmite	1 jar
Tomato Sauce	8 bottles.
Pears	1 tin
Plums	3 tins
Prunes	1 "
Orange Juice	68 "
Apples	527 lbs.
Oranges	63 "
Bananas	4 "
Eggs	3 dozen.
Bacon	35¾ lbs.
Cheese	⅛ "
Sugar	10 "
Chocolate	8 bars
Potatoes	22 lbs.
Evaporated Milk	24 tins.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Although general slaughtering for the District is still carried out under the control of the Ministry of Food at Ipswich, renewals of licences to local butchers were made in connection with the slaughtering of "self supplier" pigs.

Slaughterhouse licences issued	12
Inspections of premises	14
Slaughtermans licences issued during the year	4

Knackers Yards.

There is only one licenced Knackers Yard in the District. 17 visits were made.

Inspection of Food Premises.

Butchers Shops	17
" Vans	6
Fish Shops	4
Fishmongers vans	8
Fish & Chip Shops	12
do. Vans	2
Grocers Shops	19
do. Vans	2
Restaurant & Cafes	17
Potted Meat Factory	1
Bakers Vans	7
Milk "	8

MILK.

During the year 73 visits were made to Dairies and Cowsheds.

The transfer to the Ministry of Agriculture of responsibility for the production side of all milk supplies has again been postponed. Only four complaints were received regarding milk supplied by retailers, and all during the spell of hot weather.

Two enquiries were received and advice given in connection with the production of Goats Milk.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Factories with power	46
Factories without power	14
Number of inspections made	55

Defects found and remedied:-

Want of cleanliness	5
Inadequate ventilation	1
Sanitary conveniences (insufficiency in number)	2
Other offences	6
	14

Outworkers.

Number of workers engaged in the making of wearing apparel	7

AW/PH.
Sept.1949.